convicted for any criminal offence involving moral turpitude/economic offences (other than freedom struggle), Mentally unsound/totally paralysed persons and Signatory to agreement of a dealership/distributorship of any Oil Company terminated on the ground of adulteration/ malpractice are not eligible to apply.

The eligibility criteria and the various parameters on which the evaluation of the candidate is to be done is also given in the advertisement in the news papers.

(c) IOC has advertised for 303 locations in the State of Kerala for setting up of KSKs. The details of these locations and the number of applications received in response to those advertisements are available with Director (Marketing) of IOC.

Allocation of kerosene to Orissa

3299. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allocation of kerosene to Orissa has been decreasing continuously since 2001-02 and despite request being made by the State Government, kerosene is not being allocated as per the census data of 2001;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested to allocate kerosene to the State on the pattern being followed in the case of Punjab and Haryana; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in following the aforesaid pattern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) As per the policy adopted by the Government of India, the Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to various States/Union Territories, including Orissa, was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 upto 2004-05, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each of the States/Union Territories. During 2005, the State Government of Orissa had made a request for the allocation of PDS SKO on the basis of uniform per capita availability in all States.

In view of the requests received from various State Governments including Orissa for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned a detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has *Inter alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. Also, Dr. Rangarajan Committee constituted by the Government to formulate a long-term pricing policy of petroleum products has also recommended to restrict PDS SKO subsidy to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS Kerosene may be restricted to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/UTs is under the consideration of the Government.